



Water Restriction FAQs

Q. What is a water warning?

A. Water warning means mandatory conservation measures are appropriate to maintain adequate supply for public safety and consumer consumption, as determined by the City of Bloomington Utilities and declared by the Mayor.

Q. Why are mandatory water restrictions in place / Why was the ban issued?

A. Mandatory water restrictions are now necessary to maintain proper water pressure to ensure public safety and adequate water supplies for all CBU customers throughout the summer. Drought conditions and high water use are putting stress on the distribution system.

Q. Can I water my lawn?

A. No. Sprinkling, watering, or irrigating of grass is prohibited.

Q. Can I water my flowers and trees?

A. No, however, trees which were planted no more than five (5) years prior to these restrictions may be watered for one hour per day by hand using a container or hand-held hose with a shut-off nozzle, a drip irrigation system, or a soaker hose. Tree watering is limited to an area not to exceed the drip line of a tree, and may only occur before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

Q. Can I water my vegetable garden?

A. Yes, gardens for human food consumption can be watered, but watering **MUST** be done with a handheld hose or watering can. Unattended sprinklers/hoses cannot be placed in gardens.

Q. Can I install new sod?

A. No. This is prohibited under this emergency watering restriction.

Q. Can I water my new sod or newly seeded area of grass?

A. Yes, if these areas were installed in the past 45-days, but watering **MUST** be done with a handheld hose. Unattended sprinklers/hoses cannot be placed in lawns.

Q. I just purchased a pool. Can I fill it up?

A. No. Filling new or empty swimming pools is prohibited.

Q. I have an existing pool that needs to be topped off with some water. Can I do that?

A. Yes. However, automatic fill valves are prohibited.

Q. I'm serviced by a well. Does this ban apply to me?

A. No.

Q. Can I rinse off my driveway or sidewalk?

A. No. Using water to clean sidewalks, driveways, paved areas, structures, buildings or other outdoor surfaces is prohibited.

Q. Can I wash my car in my driveway or lawn?

A. No. Washing cars, trucks, trailers or mobile homes is prohibited except at commercial car washes.

Q. Can I rinse or wash other vehicles or mobile equipment?

A. No. Washing railroad cars or any other type of mobile equipment is prohibited unless expressly required by law for health and safety reasons.

Q. Can I hold a car wash for as a fundraiser for my organization?

A. No. Only commercial car wash operations are exempt during a water warning.

Q. I am a contractor. Do the requirements to spray down dust while on a jobsite still apply?

A. No. The City will not require this action during the water warning.

Q. Who can use the fire hydrants? Are those that currently hold contracts to use them allowed to continue to do so?

A. Only the City of Bloomington Fire Department, the City of Bloomington Utilities and other municipal entities may use the hydrants during a water warning. Private entities that currently use the hydrants during their daily operations are prohibited from using them during a water warning.

Q. Are there any exemptions?

A. Yes. Nurseries, automatic commercial car washes, manual commercial car washes, tees, greens and fairways at golf courses are exempt. Citizens who receive their water from a well are also exempt.

Q. Why are golf courses exempt?

A. The types of businesses that are exempt under the ban are those that rely on water to operate or maintain their business. Golf courses rely on irrigation in order to operate a successful business.

Q. Does this ordinance apply to customers of wholesale water companies?

A. Customers served by one of the nine wholesale water companies that make up the Utility's consecutive systems which serve all of Monroe County and parts of Brown County are asked to adhere to the restrictions.

Q. What are the penalties for violating the water warning?

A. Failure to comply with the mandatory restrictions will result in a written warning for first time violators. A \$100 fine will be imposed for the second, \$250 for the third and \$500 per day per violation for the fourth.